

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. KING (INFO)

H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

EUR/P - MR. SAVAGE

NEA/ARN - MR. KORN

AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

----- 029778

R 17223Z OCT 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY SANAA
USINT BAGHDAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING OCTOBER 17, 1974:

QUOTE: Q. CAN YOU TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT HOW THE UNITED STATES LOOKS UPON THE TRANSFER OF MIRAGE PLANES BY KUWAIT TO EGYPT AND AT THE SAME TIME TRAINS KUWAITIS HERE TO FLY AMERICAN SKYHAWKS, WHICH PRESUMABLY ALSO CAN BE TRANSFERRED TO SOME OTHER POWER? IF NOT THE PLANES THEN THE PILOTS.

A. ON YOUR FIRST QUESTION, I'VE SEEN THE SAME REPORT YOU HAVE, BUT I HAVE NOTHING ON IT FOR YOU. MAYBE YOU SHOULD ASK THE GOVERNMENTS THAT ARE CONCERNED WITH THIS.

Q. I DIDN'T ASK YOU ABOUT WHETHER THIS WAS ACTUALLY DONE; I ASKED YOU HOW YOU LOOK UPON THIS.

A. I HAVE NO COMMENT ON IT.

Q. YOU HAVE NO COMMENT? DO YOU MEAN YOU DON'T CARE WHETHER OR NOT --

A. I HAVE NO COMMENT ON IT.

Q. I ASKED YOU WHETHER OR NOT YOU CARE ABOUT IT.

A. WITH REGARD TO KUWAITI PILOTS IN THE UNITED STATES, RIGHT NOW THERE ARE ABOUT A HUNDRED KUWAITI AIR CADETS AND TECHNICIANS WHO ARE UNDERGOING ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING.

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Q. ABOUT HOW MANY?

A. A HUNDRED. IT'S A COMBINATION OF AIR CADETS AND TECHNICIANS. AND OF THE HUNDRED I THINK 54 ARE PILOT CADETS. AND THIS TRAINING, INCIDENTALLY, IS GOING ON DOWN AT THE LAKELAND AIR FORCE BASE IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS. AND SOME OF THESE STUDENTS, UPON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THEIR

ENGLISH TRAINING, ARE UNDERTAKING BASIC PILOT TRAINING AND PURSUING OTHER AVIATION-RELATED TRAINING PROGRAMS.

THE FIRST ONES ARRIVED IN SEPTEMBER '73. DEPENDING UPON THE AMOUNT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING THAT'S NEEDED, THEIR PROGRAM WILL LAST BETWEEN 18 AND 24 MONTHS.

Q. DOES THAT INCLUDE THE SUBSEQUENT PILOT TRAINING OR IS THAT JUST THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE?

A. MY GUIDANCE IS NOT CLEAR ON THAT. I'LL CHECK IT.

Q. THIS MIGHT SEEM AN UNEDUCATED QUESTION, BUT WHY WOULD CADETS BE TRAINED IN ENGLISH AT AN AIR FORCE BASE?

A. I, FRANKLY, DO NOT KNOW WHY THEY WOULD BE TRAINED AT AN AIR FORCE BASE EXCEPT THAT FOLLOWING THEIR ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING, OR POSSIBLY SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH IT, THERE WILL BE SOME TRAINING THAT MAY GO ON SIMULTANEOUSLY OR LATER WITH REGARD TO AVIATION-RELATED TRAINING PROGRAMS.

Q. I ASSUME THAT THERE'S A THIRD-PARTY TRANSFER CLAUSE IN THE AGREEMENT SELLING JETS TO KUWAIT. IS THERE A SIMILAR CLAUSE CONCERNING THE PILOTS THEMSELVES? CAN THEY BE USED BY ANOTHER COUNTRY'S AIR FORCE FOR TRAINING OR FLYING THEMSELVES?

A. I WOULD MAKE THE SAME ASSUMPTION WITH REGARD TO YOUR FIRST POINT THAT YOU DID. WITH REGARD TO THE SECOND POINT, I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. WILL YOU TAKE THAT, PLEASE?

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A. I WILL LOOK INTO IT IF IT'S APPLICABLE.

Q. WHAT IS THE DATE THAT THE MANDATE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST EXPIRES, AND WHAT INITIATIVES ARE PLANNED BY THE UNITED STATES TO OBTAIN A RENEWAL OF THAT SIX-MONTH PERIOD?

A. IF I RECALL CORRECTLY, THE MANDATE WITH REGARD TO THE SINAI, I BELIEVE, IS BEFORE THE END OF THIS MONTH. THE MANDATE WITH REGARD TO THE SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT IS THE END OF NOVEMBER. I CAN NOT RECALL WHETHER ITS THE 24TH OR THE 30TH OF NOVEMBER.

ON THE SECOND PART OF YOUR QUESTION, THESE SUBJECTS WERE

OBTAINING A VISA. IT WAS OBVIOUSLY DISCUSSED BY THE SECRETARY DURING HIS RECENT TRIP WITH THE PARTIES CONCERNED.

Q. HAS MR. ARAFAT APPLIED FOR A U.S. VISA AND, IF SO, WHERE HAS HE APPLIED?

A. THE ANSWER TO YOUR FIRST QUESTION IS "NO." WE'VE HAD NO APPLICATION FOR A VISA.

Q. HAVE YOU HAD ANY APPLICATION FROM ANY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION TO COME HERE FOR THE UN DEBATE?

A. TO MY KNOWLEDGE, NO. I MEAN THIS IS SEPARATE FROM WHAT I BELIEVE IS CALLED THE PALESTINIAN INFORMATION OFFICE IN NEW YORK, WHERE THEY DO HAVE SOME PEOPLE THERE.

BUT WITH REGARD TO, SAY, ARAFAT OR OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION COMING TO NEW YORK FOR THE FORTHCOMING DEBATE, WE HAVE HAD NO VISA REQUEST, AS FAR AS I KNOW. I CHECKED ON THIS JUST BEFORE I CAME DOWN.

Q. DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY PLO REPRESENTATIVES, OR REPRESENTATIVES OF PLO, HAVE ALREADY ENTERED THE COUNTRY WITH PASSPORTS ISSUED BY MEMBER STATES OF THE UN?

A. I DO NOT KNOW.
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Q. MR. SHAATH, FOR EXAMPLE.

A. YES. I DO NOT KNOW HOW MANY; NO.

Q. DID HE COME TO THE DELEGATION; DO YOU KNOW?

A. I DO NOT KNOW. LET ME FIND OUT. IF I CAN BE OF ANY HELP TO YOU ON THIS GENERAL QUESTION, I WILL.

Q. DIDN'T THE SECRETARY SAY HE'D BE COMING BACK TO THE MIDDLE EAST IN EARLY NOVEMBER?

A. YES.

Q. DIDN'T HE SAY THAT ABOUT FOUR TIMES?

A. YES, BUT IT MAY SLIP BY SOME PERIOD. IN OTHER WORDS, THE POINT IS: NOTHING HAS BEEN TIED DOWN. HE HAS TO COORDINATE. AS WE ALL KNOW, HE'LL HAVE TO COORDINATE THIS

WITH A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTS TO MAKE SURE THAT HIS PRESENCE AT A GIVEN TIME WOULD BE CONVENIENT TO THEM; AND HE TOLD ME YESTERDAY THAT AS SOON AS HE IS ABLE TO WORK OUT THE DETAILS AND THE TIMING ON HIS NEXT VISIT TO THE MIDDLE EAST, WE WILL INFORM YOU IMMEDIATELY. BUT HE JUST HASN'T GOT ANYTHING DEFINITE TIED DOWN YET.

Q. SO IT MAY NOT COME IN THE FIRST WEEK OF NOVEMBER, AS HE INDICATED?

A. IT MAY NOT. IT MAY AND IT MAY NOT. HE JUST HASN'T TIED IT DOWN, AND HE ASKED ME TO PUT IT TO YOU EXACTLY IN THIS WAY.

Q. WHILE YOU LOOKING INTO THE QUESTION OF THE KUWAITI PILOTS, WOULD YOU ALSO FIND OUT FOR US HOW MANY PILOTS OR OTHER AIR CADETS OR TECHNICIANS, OR WHATEVER, DEALING WITH AVIATION, ARE HERE FROM SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT?

A. LET ME SEE WHAT I CAN DO. END QUOTE. SEE NOTE BELOW.
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NOTE: SUBSEQUENT TO THE BRIEFING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS SUPPLIED TO THE PRESS AND BECAME PART OF THE OFFICIAL RECORD OF THE PRESS BRIEFING: IN CONNECTION WITH LONG STANDING, ON-GOING PROGRAMS OF MILITARY TRAINING MADE AVAILABLE BY THE UNITED STATES CURRENTLY THERE ARE FORTY-FOUR SAUDI ARABIAN TRAINEES RECEIVING U.S. AIR FORCE TRAINING. TWENTY-TWO ARE PILOT CADETS AND TWENTY-TWO ARE TECHNICIANS. THERE ARE NO EGYPTIAN PERSONNEL RECEIVING U.S. AIR FORCE TRAINING.

#SUBSEQUENT TO THE BRIEFING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS SUPPLIED TO THE PRESS AND BECAME PART OF THE OFFICIAL

RECORD OF THE PRESS BRIEFING: OUR CURRENT INFORMATION IS THAT THE PLO DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS HAS THREE MEMBERS: SAADAT HASAN, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NEW YORK OFFICE OF THE PLO, NABIL SHA'ATH AND DR. GEORGE TOMEH. SHA'ATH AND TOMEH RECEIVED ENTRY VISAS AS MEMBERS OF THE PLO FOR THE UNITED NATIONS DEBATE. ALSO FAYEZ SAYEGH, COUNSELOR OF THE KUWAIT EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND BURHAN HAMMAD, MEMBER OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES DELEGATION TO THE UN ARE PALESTINIANS ADVISING ON PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS, BUT THEY REMAIN MEMBERS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE DELEGATIONS.
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